



REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-17, and 20-26 were amended. Claims 11, 15, and 18-19 were cancelled without prejudice. Claims 27-32 were added. Therefore, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-17, 20-32 are now presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wheeler, U.S. Patent No. 5,884,050 (“Wheeler”). Claims 16-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Joh, U.S. Patent No. 5,870,566 (“Joh”).

Wheeler discloses employing a “computer system 10 . . . include[ing] a central processing unit (CPU) 12, a memory system 14, and a *PCI chip set* 11 interconnected by a private bus 17. Further a co-processor integrated circuit 15, and an input/output (I/O) system 16 is . . . interconnected with *PCI chip set* 11 by a system bus 18” (col. 4, lines 55-60; emphasis provided). Wheeler further discloses “[v]ideo and audio data is transferred between memory system 14 and co-processor 15 via private bus 17, *PCI chip set* 11, and system bus 18 . . . follow[ing] the *Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) standard*” (col. 4, lines 64-67; emphasis provided).

With regard to claim 1, in pertinent part, it recites, transmitting packets of data having “special cycles embodying control information” (emphasis provided). Wheeler does not teach or suggest transmitting packets of data between components with the packets of data having special cycles embodying control information as recited by claim

1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

With regard to independent claim 9, it contains limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 9 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

Joh, on the other hand, discloses “[a]n expandable local area hub network . . . compris[ing] *a plurality of hubs* . . . [e]ach hub includes *a plurality of ports for interfacing* with remote stations” (Abstract; emphasis provided). Joh further discloses “*arbitrarily choos[ing]* [a hub] to begin as the controlling hub” (col. 6, lines 35-37; emphasis provided). Joh does not teach or reasonably suggest having a hub interface and passing a message having control information via the hub interface as recited by claim 16.

With regard to claim 16, in pertinent part, it recites, “receiving a first signal in a first hub of a hub interface . . . [and] passing a message in response to the first signal from the first hub via the hub interface, the message having control information” (emphasis provided). Joh does not teach or reasonably suggest the hub interface as of claim 16 or the passing of the message having control information as recited by claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 16 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

With regard to claim 22, it contains limitations similar to those of claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 22 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

With regard to claim 25, it contains limitations similar to those of claim 16.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 25 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

With regard to claim 26, it contains limitations similar to those of claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 26 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed.



Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

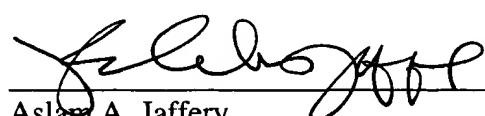
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: May 23, 2003


Aslam A. Jaffery
Reg. No. 51,841

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980